

CRISPIN AKERMAN

Crispin Akerman has earned a significant reputation for the elegant simplicity and fine balance he achieves within his favoured genre of still life painting. He uses a timeless vocabulary of domestic items such as ceramics, fruit, drapery and enamelware as well as native Australian flora to capture a sense of quiet contemplation, history and beauty. Due to a recent move to coastal Western Australia, beach elements are often included in his works. Elements of the natural environment and the landscape also feature in his most recent works. While the works are largely observational, the arrangement of the objects is highly constructed over underlying geometries, allowing for the exploration of harmony, balance, tension, light and atmosphere. His paintings explore their intimate nature in a non-specific location. The elements of this genre that Crispin finds so interesting are "the contemplative potential in it, the suggestion of the kinetic in the static, the metaphysical promise present in the very words, still life".

Born in England, Crispin Akerman came to Australia with his family in 1966. He spent many years in the music industry but decided in 1989 to pursue his lifelong interest in the visual arts. He received a Bachelor of Visual Arts from the Canberra School of Art in 1992 and has since received significant recognition for his painting. Crispin's first solo exhibition was held at Beaver Galleries in 1995 and his popularity has gone from strength to strength with each exhibition. Crispin's paintings are represented in the collections of Artbank, Parliament House, BHP Billiton, the Australian National University, St John of God Hospital - Murdoch, Canberra Eye Hospital, City of Bunbury and the Town of Bassendean.

BIOGRAPHY

1960	Born Dorset, UK
1966	Emigrated to Australia (WA)
1980-88	Professional musician (founding member of the Eurogliders)
1990	Technical Assistant to Mandy Martin, Canberra
1992	Bachelor of Visual Arts, Canberra School of Art
1993	Technical Assistant to Robert Boynes, Canberra
1994	Prop maker for Comedy Capers Theatre Group
1999	Artist in residence, Northern Territory University

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2016	Beaver Galleries, Canberra Gallows Gallery, Perth
2015	Gallery One, Gold Coast, Qld
2014	Gallows Gallery, Perth
2013	Beaver Galleries, Canberra
2010	Beaver Galleries, Canberra Greenhill Galleries, Perth
2009	Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane Hill Smith Fine Art Gallery, Adelaide
2008	"This is a good moment", Michael Reid Gallery, Murrurundi, NSW Greenhill Galleries, Perth
2007	Beaver Galleries, Canberra Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane Greenhill Galleries, Perth
2006	Greenhill Gallery, Perth Hill Smith Gallery, Adelaide Michael Carr Art Dealer, Sydney
2005	Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane Michael Carr Art Dealer, Sydney Beaver Galleries, Canberra
2004	Beaver Galleries, Canberra Greenhill Galleries, Perth Gallery 460, Sydney
2003	Hill Smith Fine Art Gallery, Adelaide Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane Greenhill Galleries, Perth
2002	Gunyulgup Galleries, Yallingup, WA Gallery 460, Gosford, NSW Beaver Galleries, Canberra

- 2001 Gunyulgup Galleries, Yallingup, WA
Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2000 Gunyulgup Galleries, Yallingup, WA
Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane
Gallery 460, Gosford, NSW
- 1999 Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane
"Still Life Paintings", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
Libby Edwards Galleries, Melbourne
- 1998 "Paintings from the story *Picnic at Hanging Rock*", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane
Gallery 460, Gosford, NSW
Libby Edwards Galleries, Melbourne
- 1995 "28 degs. 15 mins. south", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
"Still Life", Collette Dinnigan Studio, Sydney
- 1993 "Cafe au Gough-Gough", The Gods Cafe, ANU Canberra

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2016 "Art from the Heart: The Private Collection of Viola Nicolson and Colin Fitzgerald", Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery, Qld
- 2015 "Christmas Show", Gallows Gallery, Perth
- 2014 "Christmas Show", The Studio Gallery, Yallingup, WA
- 2013 "Small Works", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
"Bunbury Biennale", Bunbury Regional Art Gallery
"South Western Times Survey", Bunbury Regional Art Galleries
- 2012 12 Studio Artists, The Studio Gallery, Yallingup, WA
"Greenhill Galleries 40th Birthday Exhibition", Greenhill Galleries, Perth
"South Western Times Survey", Bunbury Regional Art Galleries
- 2011 Bassendean Visual Art Awards, Cyril Jackson Recreation Centre, Perth
"Small Works", Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane
"Home grown", Greenhill Galleries, Perth
"Squared", Greenhill Galleries, Perth
"Lust", Brenda May Gallery, Sydney
- 2010 Stanthorpe Art Festival, Stanthorpe Regional Gallery, NSW
- 2009 "Squared", Greenhill Galleries, Perth
"Sketched", Greenhill Galleries, Perth
- 2008 "Squared", Greenhill Galleries, Perth
"Small Works", Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane
"Greenhill Galleries Opening Exhibition", Greenhill Galleries, Perth
"Christmas Exhibition", Greenhill Galleries, Perth
Eutick Memorial Still Life Award, Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery
- 2007 "Squared", Greenhill Galleries, Perth
"Small Works", Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane
- 2006 Gallery 460, Sydney
"Squared", Greenhill Galleries, Perth
Melbourne Art Fair (Beaver Galleries)
"Small Works", Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane
- 2005 "Squared", Greenhill Galleries, Perth
10th Anniversary Exhibition, Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane
- 2004 "Fresh Paint", Greenhill Galleries, Perth
Perth International Art Fair, Perth
Melbourne Art Fair (with Beaver Galleries)
- 2003 "Changing Surfaces", Shepparton Art Gallery, Victoria
- 2002 Melbourne Art Fair 2002, Melbourne (Beaver Galleries)
- 2001 Nicola Townsend, Tokyo, Japan
"The Hungry Man's Exhibition", Manning Regional Art Gallery, Taree, NSW; Touring to Grafton Regional Gallery, Orange
Regional Gallery, Hastings Regional Gallery - Port Macquarie and Gloucester Regional Gallery
- 2000 Melbourne Art Fair 2000, Melbourne (Beaver Galleries)
Nicola Townsend, Tokyo, Japan

- 1998 6th Australian Contemporary Art Fair, Melbourne (Beaver Galleries)
Zonta, Perth
- 1997 Contemporary Art Fair, ANU Drill Hall Gallery, Canberra (Beaver Galleries)
"The Summer Exhibition", Libby Edwards Galleries, Melbourne
"Musicians and Musical Instruments", Gallery 460, Gosford, NSW
- 1996 "Imagining the Real: Recent Acquisitions from the Parliament House Art Collection", Parliament House, Canberra
"Christmas Collection '96", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 1994 "Picture Writing", Jardine St Gallery, Canberra
- 1993 "Every Day", Spiral Arm Gallery, Canberra

AWARDS / COMMISSIONS

- 2011 Town of Bassendean Acquisitive Award
- 1994 ACT Cultural Council Grant
Maitland Art Award

PUBLICATIONS

- 2013 "Balance a fine line", Sasha Grishin, *The Canberra Times*, 15 February
- 2010 "The eduring power of still life", Sasha Grishin, *The Canberra Times*, 17 February
- 2007 Review, Sasha Grishin, *The Canberra Times*, 21 March
- 2005 "Fragile beauty unfolds", Sonia Barron, *The Canberra Times*, 8 December
- 2004 "Still-lifes show virtuosity", Sonia Barron, *The Canberra Times*, 5 April
- 2002 "Beautifully composed pictures of fruit", Sonia Barron, *The Canberra Times*, 9 Dec
- 1999 "Simplicity core of appeal", Sonia Barron, *The Canberra Times*, 22 November
- 1996 "The peoples' house of art", Sasha Grishin, *The Canberra Times*, 26 June
- 1995 "From rock to art and the Batavia", Helen Musa, *The Canberra Times*, 25 August
"A shipwreck as inspiration", Sonia Barron, *The Canberra Times*, 1 September
"Crispin Akerman" (reviews), Kate Civil, *Muse*, September

COLLECTIONS

Parliament House, Canberra; Artbank, Sydney; Australian National University, Canberra; BHP Billiton, Sydney; St John of God Hospital Murdoch, WA; Canberra Eye Hospital; City of Bunbury, WA